

**DEMOCRATIC** 

**CONGRESSIONAL** 

**CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** 

Hon Patrick J Kennedy, RI Chairman

June 8, 2000

Hon Charles B. Rangel, NY Co-Chair, Voter Participation

Hon. Frank Pallone, Jr, NJ Co-Chair. Finance

Hon. Ellen O. Tauscher, CA Co-Chair, Member Participation

Lawrence Noble, Esq.
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W., 6th Floor

Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Mr. Noble:

MUR SORG

This complaint asserts that Dick Zimmer, Zimmer 2000, Maria Chappa, Citizens for Tax Reform, Megan Jencik, Jamestown Associates, Fox Media Consulting, Larry Weitzner and Tom Blakely violated the Federal Election Campaign Act (the "Act"), 2 U.S.C. §§ 431 et seq., and related regulations of the Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or the "Commission"), 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.1 et seq.

Seeking the Republican nomination for Congress, Zimmer used an unregistered shadow organization to run attack ads against an opponent. These ads were prepared directly by his campaign consultants and were purchased by a woman who had worked on his staff weeks before the ads aired. In fact, this is the second time that a Zimmer campaign for Federal office has broken the law in this way. Nearly all of the personalities involved in this scheme were engaged in a virtually identical-one during Zimmer's failed 1996 campaign for Senate.

Zimmer obviously views the direct use of outside group "soft money" as part of the normal business of campaigning. Having received the Republican nomination in this way, he will undoubtedly use similar tactics in the general election. The Commission must take immediate action to punish and correct this illegal behavior.

[04031-0044/zımmercomplaint] 430 SOUTH CAPITOL STREET • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003 • (202) 863-1500 • www takebackthehouse.com

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### **DISCUSSION**

## **Facts**

Dick Zimmer is a former member of Congress who ran and lost for the United States Senate in 1996, and who now seeks to recover his old seat. Zimmer 2000 is his principal campaign committee, and Maria Chappa is its Treasurer.

Until late April, Zimmer paid Megan Jencik individually to work for his campaign. However, on or around June 1, Jencik placed a series of radio advertisements on behalf of a company called Fox Media Consulting for a group called "Citizens for Tax Reform," an unregistered organization. See Aron Pilhofer, Ex-aide of Zimmer linked to ads, Home News Tribune, Juné 3, 2000.

Running on two New York City radio stations, WOR and WCBS, the ads harshly attacked Mike Pappas, Zimmer's principal opponent. However, far from addressing the subject of taxation, one of the ads instead sought to link Pappas to the Ku Klux Klan. Prominent Republicans, including former Governor Tom Kean, immediately denounced the ads. Id.

As the facts emerged, it soon became clear that the attack ads were a project of the Zimmer campaign. By all appearances, the firm that placed the ads, Fox Media Consulting, is simply an arm of Jamestown Associates, Zimmer's own media consulting firm. Fox's agent is Tom Blakely, who is a partner in Jamestown Associates. Jamestown's web site listed Jencik as an employee even while she was purchasing time for Fox. And when it was organized with the State of New Jersey, Fox listed Jamestown's address as its own. Id.

Moreover, the campaign against Pappas recalled a similar scheme undertaken by Zimmer in his unsuccessful 1996 campaign, which involved the same principals behind the anti-Pappas ads. That scheme centered around Jamestown Associates and the Committee for Responsible Government ("CRG"), a Federal PAC with a nonfederal account registered with the State of New Jersey. Its object was to pay for large portions of Zimmer's Senate campaign budget with outside funds. See, e.g., Brett Pulley, At One Office, Intricate Links in New Jersey's G.O.P. Funds, N.Y. Times, July 8, 1996, A1.

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According to public records, between July and December 1995, CRG raised only \$7,664 into its Federal account and made only five contributions totaling \$17,700. However, the lion's share of these funds -- \$10,000 -- went to Zimmer's Senate campaign. At the same time, CRG paid \$12,500 in consulting fees to Larry Weitzner, a partner in Jamestown Associates who was simultaneously serving as Zimmer's campaign manager. Both CRG and Jamestown Associates were located at 741 Alexander Road. Id.

## **Applicable Law**

The Commission has long warned that expenditures made in support of a candidate by a current or former employee are to be considered in-kind contributions. The Act itself provides that "expenditures made by any person in cooperation, consultation, or concert, with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, is authorized political committees, or their agents, shall be considered to be a contribution to such candidate . . . " 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(7)(B)(i). See also 11 C.F.R. § 109.1(b)(4)(i)(B), 109.1(c) (2000); Advisory Opinions 1996-1, 1983-26-1980-116 and 1979-80.

Moreover, it is well settled that the sharing of a consultant by a candidate and an outside group can convert the group's expenditures into campaign contributions. See 11 C.F.R. §§ 109.1(b)(4)(i)(B), 109.1(c). Finally, courts and the Commission have recently interpreted the Act to bar political committees from directly using unregulated groups to undertake activities on their behalf. See, e.g., FEC v. California Democratic Party, Civ. S-97-0891 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 3, 1999).

Zimmer's scheme represents an egregious violation of these longstanding principles. A former Zimmer staffer who continued to work for his media consultant, Megan Jencik waited a mere two months after ostensibly leaving the campaign payroll before seeking to make expenditures that were purportedly independent of his campaign. Her status as a former staffer -- and as a current employee of the campaign's media consultant -- is enough to convert Citizens for Tax Reform's advertising campaign into illegal contributions to Zimmer's campaign. The same is true for Jamestown Associates, which by all appearances controls the entity that placed the advertisements, all while advising the Zimmer campaign.

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This is not simply a garden-variety case of coordination, however. All of the facts indicate a deliberate effort by Zimmer to use a web of for-profit and non-profit organizations to make expenditures on his behalf. All of the circumstances point to a scheme to violate the law -- the shadowy nature of the outside group; the extensive interlocks between the various consultants; and the curious fact that a group ostensibly devoted to tax reform would run ads on the eve of a Republican primary linking a candidate to the Ku Klux Klan.

Moreover, all of the evidence suggests that this is simply Dick Zimmer's way of doing business. He engaged in similar characles during his failed 1996 campaign, using federal and state PACs to subsidize his consultants and fund his campaign, all working out of the same offices. However, it is not a legal way of doing business, and there is every reason to suggest that Zimmer's pattern of egregious violations will persist through the general election.

## **CONCLUSION**

For the aforementioned reasons, we request that the Commission begin an immediate investigation into Zimmer's illegal activities. It should seek the highest civil penalties available under law, as well as an injunction that will stop Zimmer's practice of violating the Act once and for all. The high likelihood of recurrence makes it imperative that the Commission act promptly.

Executive Director, DCCC

STATE OF Dist- of Columbia County of

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this

My Commission Expires: Oct. 31, 2002

#### 7 of 7 DOCUMENTS

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#### The New York Times

July 8, 1996, Monday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 1; Column 4; Metropolitan Desk

LENGTH: 1916 words

HEADLINE: At One Office, Intricate Links In New Jersey's G.O.P. Funds

BYLINE: By BRETT PULLEY

DATELINE: PRINCETON, N.J., July 5

BODY:

For Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, Representative Richard A. Zimmer and numerous other Republicans around the country, the road to political prominence runs through a spartan industrial park on the outskirts of this Ivy League town.

Here, in a former warehouse at 741 Alexander Road, is the headquarters of the Committee for Responsible Government, a young but flourishing federally registered political action committee that is dominated by Mrs. Whitman and gives money to candidates throughout the country who share her philosophy of fiscal conservatism and moderation on social issues.

The office building is also the headquarters of the New Jersey Committee for Responsible Government, the local affiliate that is registered in the state and collects the corporate contributions that the national PAC is forbidden to accept.

The same office houses the Murray-Weitzner Group, Jamestown Associates and David J. Murray & Associates, three separate political consulting companies that have represented Mrs. Whitman, Mr. Zimmer, Representative Susan Molinari of New York and many other candidates in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Easy Graphics, a design company that produces campaign brochures and direct-mail advertising for these candidates, is in the building, too.

And finally, the office is the headquarters of the 741 Group, a company that provides political consulting as well as accounting services for both political action committees.

The activity at 741 Alexander Road is a microcosm of the arcane, evershifting world of campaign finance. It is an incestuous arrangement in which the same small group of people control the two PAC's and the various businesses, passing money back and forth among themselves as they handle fund raising, spending, contracting, billing and payments.

The situation also shows how corporations and financiers use PAC's to curry favor with elected and appointed officials, even though Federal election laws limit corporate contributions to candidates and securities regulations prohibit bond underwriters from contributing to officials who control the issuing of bonds.

But while there is no evidence that the activity at 741 Alexander Road violates Federal regulations and election laws intended to dampen influence on politicians, it seems to violate the spirit in which they were written.

Lawrence B. Weitzner, who owns Jamestown Associates and is the political director of both PAC's and a consultant to Mr. Zimmer, said that the businesses and the PAC's all were operating within election laws and guidelines. He said that Democratic officials and a labor organization that criticized the operations did so for political gain, and that the perception of any wrongdoing was a result of the complexity of the overlapping operations.

"It looks worse than it is," he said in an exasperated tone. \

Nevertheless, the Federal Election Commission has begun to examine the operations at 741 Alexander Road after the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council, an affiliate of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., filed a complaint with the commission last month, charging that the various companies there were being used illegally to finance the campaign of Mr. Zimmer, who is seeking the Senate seat being vacated by Bill Bradley.

Complaint Cites A 'Tangled Web'

Citing what it called "a tangled web" involving the various companies at 741 Alexander and the PAC's, the union group, which is backing Mr. Zimmer's Democratic opponent, Representative Robert G. Torricelli, said in the complaint: "One wonders exactly what form of support C.R.G. gave to Mr. Zimmer. All roads in the Zimmer campaign seem to lead to 741 Alexander." A spokesman for the election commission in Washington said the agency was reviewing the complaint. Mr. Zimmer has denied the charges.

In races across the country as heated as the New Jersey Senate contest, allegations like these are not uncommon. But often, no action is taken because they are found to be within the limitations of campaign finance laws and regulations.

Mr. Weitzner, who was an official in the administration of Gov. Thomas H. Kean, is also the former treasurer of the Committee for Responsible Government and its New Jersey affiliate. He and David J. Murray are co-owners of the Murray-Weitzner Group, a political consulting concern. In addition, Mr. Murray has his own company, David J. Murray & Associates, based in the same office building.

In a recent interview, Mr. Weitzner explained the relationships between the various entities at 741 Alexander. "I have my clients, Dave has his, and we work on some together," Mr. Weitzner said.

For example, Mr. Weitzner is the chief consultant of Mr. Zimmer's campaign and Mr. Murray is running the re-election campaign of Representative William J. Martini from the Eighth District in northern New Jersey. Both are handling the Congressional campaign of Steven J. Coredemus, a State Assemblyman who is seeking a Congressional seat in the Sixth District in central New Jersey.

Their offices evolved into a campaign conglomerate in recent years after Mr. Murray decided to bring together, under one roof, many of the services that campaigns require. "I said, 'Why do we need all these different consulting contracts for different services?' " Mr. Murray recalled recently.

According to Federal election records, the Committee for Responsible Government pays Mr. Weitzner's **Jamestown Associates** a monthly consulting fee of \$3,750. At the same time, Jamestown collects \$5,000 a month for consulting from the **Zimmer** for Senate campaign. The PAC also pays accounting fees to the 741 Group, which is owned by David Millner, the treasurer of Mr. **Zimmer's** campaign. Mr. Millner is also the former owner of Easy Graphics, and until last month he was treasurer of the Committee for Responsible Government.

In a letter to Mr. Weitzner earlier this year, election commission officials questioned the low costs for rent, salaries, utilities, telephones and supplies that the Committee for Responsible Government listed in its Federal filings. In their response to the letter, officials of the PAC explained that all the overhead costs were included in the consulting fees paid to Jamestown Associates.

"We did over a dozen legislative races last year," Mr. Weitzner said. "One of the reasons we're successful is that we win a lot. But we're also very conscious of how the dollars are spent. We make sure it's spent on contacting the voters and not on overhead."

Questions have also been raised about the national PAC's acceptance of donations from Wall Street bond underwriters, who count on elected officials to provide lucrative municipal bond work to their firms.

Since 1994, municipal bond underwriters who contribute to the campaigns of bond-issuing officials have been banned from doing business for two years with those officials. The Federal ban was intended to remove the appearance of a conflict of interest between Wall Street bond dealers who make political contributions and the elected officials who award municipal securities work. PAC Money Trail Leaves Few Tracks

Although the rule bars such donations directly to candidates, it does not cover donations to PAC's, unless the PAC is clearly being used to funnel money directly to a specific candidate.

"You'd have to be able to follow the money," said Christopher Taylor, executive director of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, the regulatory agency that monitors the law. "There is no way to follow the money except where the PAC is giving to only one or two candidates."

While the Committee for Responsible Government takes in personal contributions limited to \$5,000, as stipulated by Federal law, it has a local affiliate that collects all the corporate contributions that the national PAC is not allowed to accept. New Jersey law allows unlimited PAC contributions from corporations. The money that the PAC sends around the country comes from the national PAC, while money for New Jersey candidates and other PAC activities comes from the state account.

Since it started in 1993, the national PAC has raised about \$1.3 million, most of it from the one dinner at which Mrs. Whitman was the main speaker. As of April, there was \$290,000 in the national account and \$310,000 in the state account. The PAC has contributed about \$200,000 from the state account to

legislative candidates. Federal candidates, including Gov. William F. Weld of Massachusetts, Mr. Zimmer, Mr. Martini and Ms. Molinari, have each received as much as the \$10,000 limit from the Federal account.

The PAC money is being used to support Mrs. Whitman in other ways. Last year it paid to finance a study on privatization of state services for the Governor, and PAC officials said they were developing a site on the Internet's World Wide Web that would feature Mrs. Whitman. They are also planning a major event, which they still have to determine, for the Republican National Convention in August.

In March 1995, wealthy Republicans gathered at the Sheraton New York Hotel for a fund-raising dinner for the PAC. Governor Whitman, who was the guest of honor, was joined by Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut and Libby Pataki, who filled in for her husband, Gov. George E. Pataki of New York.

The event raised about \$1.1 million, and about \$15,000 came from employees of Goldman, Sachs & Company and Merrill Lynch, the two top bond underwriting firms in New Jersey. About \$15,000 more has been donated by bond underwriters over the last two years, Federal Election Commission reports show. Some of the proceeds from the dinner went to state and Federal candidates, but there is no way to show that the same dollars that came from bond underwriters went to the campaigns of officials who have bond-issuing authority. "It didn't trigger the ban," Mr. Taylor said. "It's only if you can trace the money."

Mrs. Whitman, who was the main attraction of the dinner and has always been featured prominently in all the PAC's literature, has influence over billions of dollars in state bonds underwritten by Goldman, Sachs and Merrill Lynch. But Lewis M. Eisenberg, the chairman of the PAC and a former senior partner at Goldman, Sachs, said "there was nothing wrong" with the contributions from the investment bankers because Governor Whitman had no official role in the PAC at that time.

"These were my friends," Mr. Eisenberg said. "They gave \$4,000 or \$5,000 each." The restrictions on bond underwriters did not apply, he said, "because Governor Whitman didn't have an official role in the committee at that time. She was the guest speaker at the dinner."

Several months later, Governor Whitman became the chairwoman of the PAC's board of governors. At the time of the dinner, Mr. Eisenberg, a confidant of the Governor, was a member of board of the Port Authority of New York and Jersey, a position he was named to by Mrs. Whitman. He has since become chairman of Port Authority and is now also the national co-chairman for finance for Bob Dole's Presidential campaign.

The contributions did not violate municipal securities rules, Mr. Taylor said, but he conceded that even with the rules, "there are a ton of ways for contributors to make themselves known to politicians." He added, "What is troubling is what troubles most Americans about the campaign finance system, not only nationally but locally, too, is the role of money, and the role of lots of money in influencing elections."

GRAPHIC: Chart: "AT A GLANCE: All Under One Roof"

A former warehouse at 741 Alexander Road in Princeton, N.J. is a superstore for state Republican politicians, handling everything from PAC contributions to

graphic design. Chart lists the organizations housed the the building and their leading members. (pg. B2)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 8, 1996

# 12TH DISTRICT: Ex-aide of Zimmer linked to ads

#### Published in the Home News Tribune 6/03/00

By ARON PILHOFER

**GANNETT STATE BUREAU** 

TRENTON -- Radio ads smearing congressional candidate Mike Pappas were arranged by a former paid consultant for his 12th District opponent, Dick Zimmer.

Any coordination between the third-party group behind the radio ads and the Zimmer campaign would be a violation of federal law.

The consultant - Megan Jencik -- has not done work for the campaign in weeks, according to John Holub, a spokesman for Zimmer. She was paid for consulting work through the end of April, according to the most recent Federal Election Commission reports available. The ads began airing Thursday.

Groups like the one that purchased the ads, Citizens for Tax Reform, are sometimes called "stealth PACs" because they operate outside the jurisdiction of federal campaign-finance laws. As private corporations, they are not required to disclose their contributors or abide by any limits on fund-raising or spending.

They are not allowed, however, to coordinate with any campaign for federal office because corporations are barred from direct contributions to political candidates, according to Bob Simon, general counsel for the watchdog group Common Cause.

What constitutes coordination under the law "can be a little fuzzy," he said, but in the past the FEC has ruled that a shared media consultant or the equivalent constitutes cooperation between a PAC and a campaign.

A number of prominent Republicans -- including former Gov. Tom Kean and Somerset County Republican Chairman Dale Florio -- denounced the ads, as has Zimmer himself.

"We had nothing to do with them," Holub said.

But Pappas believes otherwise.

"There is enough to lead a reasonable person to believe there is a connection here," he said at a Statehouse news conference yesterday, adding his campaign is considering filing a complaint with the Federal Election Commission.

The ads were bought by a group calling itself Citizens for Tax Reform and were placed by a company called Fox Media Consulting. The one company registered by that name in New Jersey lists the address, at the time of its incorporation, at the same location as Zimmer's consulting firm, Jamestown Associates. Jamestown has since moved.

The ads are running on at least two New York City radio stations, WOR and WCBS. John Sheridan, spokesman for Citizens for Tax Reform, also denies any connection to the Zimmer campaign. He declined to say how much his group was spending or who was paying for the advertisements.

One of the advertisements that began Thursday accuses Pappas working for a church with connections to the Ku Klux Klan. A districtwide mailing makes the same implication.

Yesterday, Pappas angrily denied that the church -- Pillar of Fire's International Christian Church in the Zarephath section of Franklin -- is affiliated to the KKK or any racist group.

Since losing his congressional seat in 1998, Pappas has worked at the church as a project coordinator, raising money for the construction of a grammar school and high school.

The ads refer to the church's turn-of-the-century founder, Alma White, who spoke on the Klan's lecture circuit and published the 1925 book "The Ku Klux Klan in Prophecy."

Pappas said the multiracial, multi-ethnic church is hardly reflective of any sort of racist legacy. "To suggest they are racist in any way, based on their track record here in recent memory, is shameful," he said. Jamestown's owner, Larry Weitzner, is also the political consultant for Mike Ferguson, who is running this year in the neighboring 7th Congressional District and ran in 1998 in the 6th District. Ferguson is being accused of connections to a similar third-party group paying for mailings attacking his opponents this year and was accused of the same thing in 1998.

Among the candidates being attacked in the 7th District race is Tom Kean Jr., son of the former governor. The senior Kean, who lives in the 12th District, sought out reporters yesterday to denounce the ads. "Mike Pappas and I disagree on a number of issues, and continue to do so. But I have gotten stuff in the mailbox recently that is beyond the pale," he said. "We are seeing it in my son's campaign, and now this. This has to stop." Neither Weitzner, nor his partner, Tom Blakely, could be reached for comment. Blakely is listed as the agent for Fox Media, according to state records. Jencik also is listed as an employee of Jamestown on the company's Web site, but she also could not be reached for comment.

Adam Geller, a vice president of Jamestown, issued a statement denying any connection to the ads and the Zimmer campaign. Geller and the Zimmer campaign leveled charges of their own against Pappas, saying he is coordinating with the anti-abortion group New Jersey Right to Life. Pappas campaign officials and Marie Tasy, spokeswoman for New Jersey Right to Life, said that is not true.

According to documents filed with the FEC, Right to Life has made a legal contribution to the Pappas campaign but does not share any consultants.

"Unlike Dick Zimmer's dishonest stealth campaign, Right to Life is a bona fide PAC. Nothing has been coordinated," she said.

The 12th Congressional District includes all of Hunterdon and parts of Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer and Somerset counties.

The 7th Congressional District includes parts of Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties. from the Home News Tribune

Published: June 3, 2000

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Asbury Park Press (Neptune, NJ.)

June 3, 2000, Saturday

SECTION: A, Pg. 1

LENGTH: 860 words

HEADLINE: PAPPAS BLASTS 12TH DISTRICT RIVAL;

Zimmer denies role in smear ads

BODY:

BY: ARON PILHOFER/GANNETT STATE BUREAU TRENTON - Radio ads smearing Republican congressional candidate Michael Pappas were arranged by a former paid consultant for his opponent in Tuesday's primary election, Richard A. Zimmer, the Pappas campaign charged yesterday.

Any coordination between the lobbying group that paid for the radio ads and the **Zimmer** campaign would be a violation of federal law.

The two former 12th District representatives are locked in a tight race, with the winner to run in November against Rep. Rush D. Holt, D-N.J., who beat Pappas in the 1998 race.

The consultant - Megan Jencik - has not done work for the campaign in weeks, according to John Holub, a spokesman for **Zimmer**. She was paid for consulting work through the end of April, according to the most recent Federal Election Commission reports available. The ads began airing Thursday.

Groups like the one that purchased the ads, Citizens for Tax Reform, are sometimes called "stealth PACs" because they operate outside the jurisdiction of federal campaign finance laws.

As private corporations, they are not required to disclose their contributors or abide by any limits on fund raising or spending.

They are not allowed, however, to coordinate with any campaign for federal office because corporations are barred from direct contributions to political candidates, according to Bob Simon, general counsel for the watchdog group Common Cause.

What constitutes coordination under the law "can be a little fuzzy," he said, but in the past the FEC has ruled that a shared media consultant or the equivalent constitutes cooperation between a PAC and a campaign.

A number of prominent Republicans - including former Gov. Thomas H. Kean and Somerset County Republican Chairman Dale Florio - denounced the ads, as has Zimmer himself.

"We had nothing to do with them," Holub said.

But Pappas believes otherwise.

"There is enough to lead a reasonable person to believe there is a connection here," he said at a Statehouse news conference yesterday, adding that his campaign is considering filing a complaint with the FEC.

The commercials were aired on at least two New York City radio stations, WOR and WCBS, placed there by a company called Fox Media Consulting. The one company registered by that name in New Jersey lists the address, at the time of its incorporation, at the same location as the consulting firm, Jamestown Associates, hired to help in **Zimmer's** campaign. Jamestown has since moved.

John Sheridan, spokesman for Citizens for Tax Reform, denied any connection to the **Zimmer** campaign. He declined to say how much his group was spending or who was paying for the advertisements.

One of the ads accuses **Pappas** of working for a church with connections to the Ku Klux Klan. A districtwide mailing makes the same implication.

Yesterday, Pappas angrily denied that the church - Pillar of Fire's International Christian Church in the Zarephath section of Franklin Township, Somerset County - is affiliated with the KKK or any racist group. Since losing his congressional seat in 1998, Pappas has worked at the church as a project coordinator, raising money for the construction of a grammar school and high school

The ads refer to the church's turn-of-the century founder, Bishop Alma White, who spoke on the Klan's lecture circuit and published the 1925 book "The Ku Klux Klan in Prophecy."

Pappas said the multiracial, multiethnic church is hardly reflective of any sort of racist legacy.

"To suggest they are racist in any way, based on their track record here in recent memory, is shameful," he said.

Other ads accuse **Pappas** of having voted for tax increases several times during his tenure as a Somerset County freeholder.

Jamestown's owner, Larry Weitzner, is also the political consultant for Michael Ferguson, who is running this year in the neighboring 7th Congressional District, and who ran in 1998 in the 6th District.

Ferguson is being accused of connections to a similar political action group paying for mailings attacking his three opponents in this year's primary contest, and was accused of the same thing in a 1998 race against Rep. Frank J. Pallone, D-N.J.

Among the candidates being attacked in the 7th District race is Thomas H. Kean Jr., son of the former governor. The senior Kean, who lives in the 12th District, which stretches from Hunterdon to Monmouth counties, sought out reporters yesterday to denounce the ads.

"Mike Pappas and I disagree on a number of issues. . . . But I have gotten stuff in the mailbox recently that is beyond the pale," he said. "We are seeing it in my son's campaign, and now this. This has to stop."

Neither Weitzner nor his partner, Tom Blakely, could be reached for comment. Blakely is listed as the agent for Fox Media, according to state records.

Jencik also is listed as an employee of Jamestown on the company's Web site. She also could not be reached for comment.

Adam Geller, a vice president of Jamestown, issued a statement denying any connection to the ads.

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2000